



PENNSYLVANIA CANCER REGISTRY

Year Funded	Type of Program	Affiliation	Compliance with Public Law 102-515: Legislation and Regulations*	
			Authorizing legislation for a statewide registry: Yes	Regulations in place for data reporting, confidentiality, and use: 7 of 8
1994	Enhancement	State Health Department		

*Source: NPCR Legislative Database, January 2001.

Cancer Burden

Cancer is a devastating disease. According to the American Cancer Society, in 2001 an estimated 553,400 Americans will die of cancer, and approximately 1.3 million new cancer cases will be diagnosed. These estimates do not include in situ (preinvasive) cancer of any site except urinary bladder or approximately 1 million cases of nonmelanoma skin cancer to be diagnosed this year. In Pennsylvania, an estimated 68,400 new cancer cases will be diagnosed, and approximately 29,800 will die of this disease in 2001. Pennsylvania ranks 21st highest overall in cancer mortality rates among the 50 states and Washington, D.C.*

The NPCR

Cancer surveillance involves the systematic collection, analysis, and use of cancer data. Information derived through surveillance is critical for directing effective cancer prevention and control programs. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's **National Program of Cancer Registries (NPCR)**, authorized by Congress in 1992 through the Cancer Registries Amendment Act (Public Law 102-515), serves as the foundation of a national, comprehensive cancer control strategy. Statewide cancer registries provide critical data to help identify and monitor trends in cancer incidence and mortality over time; guide cancer control

planning and evaluation; help allocate health resources; and advance clinical, epidemiologic, and health services research.

Through the NPCR, CDC supports registries in 45 states, the District of Columbia, and three territories, representing 96% of the U.S. population.[†] Forty-five programs receive support to enhance existing registries; these have on-going cancer data-collection activities, policies and procedures for central registry operations in place, and core staff employed. Four programs receive support to plan and develop new registries; they are typically involved in laying the necessary groundwork for establishing a central, population-based registry.

With fiscal year 2001 appropriations of approximately \$36 million, CDC continues to support and enhance state cancer registries, and promotes appropriate uses of data. The CDC will also develop special research projects, such as studies of patterns of cancer care in specific populations and assessments of data for integration with geographic information systems.

State Highlights

- The Pennsylvania Cancer Registry (PCR) was certified by the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries for completeness, timeliness, and quality of its 1997 data.

- The Bureau of Health Statistics uses PCR data to produce five standard cancer reports on an annual basis. These reports include descriptive statistics at the state and county levels. In 1999, a special report entitled *Analysis of Female Cancer Screening Behaviors for Health Districts, 1993-1997*, and a pamphlet entitled *A Guide to What's Available and Where To Find: Cancer Incidence and Mortality Statistics for Pennsylvania*, were also produced. The Bureau of Health Statistics has been creating electronic versions of PCR published reports for the Pennsylvania Department of Health Web site. This initiative has been well received and has made cancer statistics more easily accessible to data requestors.

- The Bureau of Health Statistics receives approximately 250 requests annually for cancer statistics not contained in the published reports. These requests come from government agencies, educational institutions, planning and research organizations, and concerned citizens.

Continued

*Source: CDC's National Center for Health Statistics, vital statistics data, underlying cause of death, 1993-1997.

[†]A map of the participating NPCR programs can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/npcr/statecon.htm>.

PENNSYLVANIA, CONTINUED

- The Pennsylvania Department of Health Bureau of Epidemiology uses PCR data for cancer cluster investigations. One such use was in response to the superintendent of a school district concerned with 10 cancer cases diagnosed among staff at a local elementary school.
- West Chester University Geography and Planning Department used PCR breast cancer incidence data to integrate with national water quality and state well data for spatial analysis of well depths, pesticide contamination, and breast cancer incidence.

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